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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 10 April 1952

SUBJECT Survival of Three Crew Members of U.S. Navy
Privateer Downed Over The Baltic Sea in April 1950

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The U.S. Navy Privateer which disappeared over the Baltic Sea in April 1950 was shot down over the Baltic a few kilometers (approximately ten) from Kaliningrad (54-45 N, 20-30 E) by members of an unidentified Soviet Air Force unit which at that time was stationed at a military airfield near Kaliningrad. When radar stations and units of the Soviet Navy determined that a U.S. aircraft was in the area, two squadrons of aircraft were dispatched to pursue the plane. The U.S. Navy Privateer was allegedly ordered to land at a nearby airfield; when it refused to comply with this order, the Soviet planes opened fire and shot it down. Soviet naval units were patrolling the area in which the plane crashed and rescued three members of the American plane crew. The American airmen were taken into custody by Soviet Intelligence and taken to a place unknown. Soviet Intelligence was very interested in the imprisoned Americans and that their rescue could hardly be ascribed to humanitarian motives.

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